

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7621

BILL NUMBER: HB 1315

DATE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Scenic and recreational rivers.

FISCAL ANALYST: Bernadette Bartlett

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill amends the definition of "scenic river" to provide that the river is free of natural and artificial impoundments and obstructions at all times. It provides that the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shall maintain recreational rivers so that the river is at all times free of natural and artificial impoundments and obstructions and in a manner that allows public recreational uses of the river.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Three rivers in Indiana are in the Indiana Natural, Scenic, and Recreational River System: the Blue River in Harrison County; Wild Cat Creek, which runs through Lafayette; and Cedar Creek, which runs through Fort Wayne. Blue River is 45 miles in length; Wild Cat is 50; and Cedar Creek is 114. The number of miles on the three scenic rivers totals 209.

Under current law, the DNR is required to keep the scenic rivers free of impoundments. The proposal specifies that impoundments include natural and unnatural obstructions and debris and that the rivers must be kept free of impoundments "at all times."

The DNR currently does not consider log jams as impoundments. This proposal specifies that impoundments include natural and unnatural obstructions and debris, which could include log jams. The DNR could experience additional expenses if the Department is required to clear more obstructions than what it currently does. However, there are no additional appropriations in the proposal, so the DNR would have to absorb any additional costs within its current budget.

The funds and resources required for the above could be supplied through existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity or existing staff and resources currently being used in another program. The DNR might also be able to use funds that, otherwise, would be reverted.

The specific fiscal impact is indeterminable, but would depend on the number and nature of impoundments on the rivers. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Natural Resources (317) 233-6904.